PREP AT GOOMERI STATE SCHOOL

Very soon, your child will be starting Prep at Goomeri State School. To ensure that both you and your child have a stress-free start, here are some reminders and messages that you might find useful.

STAFF
A qualified teacher is responsible for the organisation, running and curriculum of the Prep class. Teacher aides are allocated to assist the Prep class.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL NEED FOR PREP
- All the items on the Prep book list
- The school will supply a bucket hat to all students in 2017. (See ‘Sun Safe Policy’)
- A lunch box with small amounts of lots of choices for snack times, morning tea and lunch. Ice packs are great as we are not able to put all lunches in the fridge.
- A school bag big enough to hold the lunch box, a document wallet (as on the requirement list) and a library bag on library day.
- Independence in toileting
- A spare change of clothes and underwear (in a plastic bag), “just in case”. These can be kept in your child’s bag at all times.
NAMES & LABELS
As young people often do not recognise their own belongings, we cannot emphasise enough the need to label absolutely everything – bags, shoes, lunchboxes, hats, library bags, clothing and all equipment.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WEARS AT PREP
Prep students wear the school uniform which can be purchased from the Goomeri State School P&C. The preferred footwear is socks and black joggers with Velcro straps, although laces are acceptable.

We are very conscious of sun safety at our school and recommend that you apply sunscreen prior to your child’s arrival. Children must wear the school bucket hat to school each day.

FREE DRESS DAY is on the first Tuesday of each month. Students who don’t wear their uniform to school donate 50c to the Student Council (this money goes towards various Student Council projects). Once again please remember that students must wear appropriate footwear and be sun safe.
HOURS OF OPERATION
Goomeri State School Prep operates five days a week from 8.50am to 3.00pm.

There is no supervision provided prior to 8.25am. Children who arrive at school before 8.25am are required to go to the library and will be dismissed from there when supervision commences.

PARADE
From week 2 the Prep Year students will attend Parade at 8.50am on the first day of each school week. Parents are also invited to attend.

COLLECTION TIME
At 3.00pm the children leave the room and collect their belongings from the port rack. Please stay downstairs for a few minutes to give your child time to be independent, then you are welcome to help or check the port rack before leaving the grounds for home.

Prep children may be collected by a parent, caregiver or an older sibling.

Bus students will be taken across to the bus area.
PUNCTUALITY
The Prep program starts promptly at 8.50am so please ensure that your child is at school on time. This way, your child does not miss out on any valuable group learning experiences.

When the Prep day finishes, please ensure that whoever is collecting your child is here on time. A child quickly becomes distressed when it’s time to go and no one is here to collect him/her.

In addition, teachers may have meetings to attend, bus duty etc and cannot always be there to supervise after 3.00pm.

Students will be taken to the office for collection if there is no suitable supervision at the classroom after 3.00pm.
IT’S THE FIRST FULL DAY OF PREP –
Monday 23 January, 2017 –
WHAT DO WE DO?

Arrive at school and enjoy an outside play for 10-15 minutes. At approximately 8.40am go to your child's classroom.

- Help your child find his/her name and place their bag on the port rack.
- Help your child put on his/her name tag.
- Have a little look around the room
- Greet the teacher and then help your child get started on an activity.
- Sit with your child at the activity.

When the teacher indicates it is time, say your goodbyes and reassure your child that you will be coming back to get him/her in the afternoon.
MORE BITS AND PIECES TO REMEMBER

OPEN DOOR POLICY
Our door is always open and we encourage parent participation in all aspects of our program. Parents are most welcome to help in the classroom. This will give you the opportunity to work with your child, meet his/her friends and gain an insight to the daily activities. Please arrange this time with the teacher, in advance.

We are always happy to discuss any matters to do with your child. This can often be done informally before or after school but we may need to make an appointment for a mutually suitable time.

Between 8.50am and 3pm it is difficult to speak with the teacher privately as it disrupts the class. If you need to talk to the teacher, please make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.

SHARING INFORMATION
Events in family life, such as a major illness, visits by grandparents or other relatives, an accident or death of relatives, friends or pets can impact greatly upon children and may markedly affect their behaviour.
It is important for the home and Prep to share information, which may affect your child. We would be most grateful if parents would inform the teacher of any unusual happenings.

ABSENCES
If a child is absent from school, parents are asked to notify the school in writing or by phone by 9am. A valid reason for the absence and the length of absence needs to be provided. Absence notifications can be emailed directly to Admin Staff by emailing admin@goomeriss.eq.edu.au. If your child’s absence is not explained in the timeframe outlined above you will receive an SMS message from the school requesting an explanation. This is a state wide safety procedure.

TREASURES FROM HOME
Toys and trinkets from home very often become lost or broken at school, so it saves a lot of time and heartache if these are left at home.

Staff cannot assume responsibility for any loss or breakage.

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT
Goomeri is a SWPBS school, where we recognise the good behaviour of students. To acknowledge this good behaviour students are given “Goomeri Golds” which, when enough are obtained, entitles them to wristbands and a semester reward.

See the Prospectus for more information.
FORT / PLAYGROUND
Days for Prep to Yr 3 are Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

BIRTHDAYS AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS
Birthdays and other celebrations are wonderful ways to build understanding about one another. From past experience, we have found that patty cakes are more practical to share than large birthday cakes.

PARENT HELP
Parents are encouraged to contribute to the Prep program and are welcome to be helpers in the classroom. The Prep teacher will organise a parent roster once the children have settled and routines have been established.

Grandparents and other relatives are also welcome to visit. Please be aware that a Blue Card will be required by any helpers who are not parents of a Prep student.

Parents can also help by taking small tasks to do at home such as cutting up materials or making play dough.

Parents are required to sign the Visitors/Voluntary Helpers book at the office when staying at Prep for any purpose.
TUCKSHOP is available on Thursdays. Please use the brown paper bag ordering system. Please remember to also pack fruit on this day for fruit break.

LOST PROPERTY
Please make regular checks of the lost property box located on the verandah, under F Block (where parade is) or at the office.

EXCURSIONS
From time to time during the year we may organise tours of educational interest for the children. Written permission from parents will be necessary before a child may participate in any such outing.

Parent helpers may be needed, but no toddlers or other children can be included, as these are special outings for your Prep child and yourself.

LEARN TO SWIM
Prep students participate in a five week Learn to Swim program in Term 4 with the school Physical Education teacher and other staff members. Students will travel to and from the pool by bus in their timetabled PE lesson. It is an Education Queensland policy for all students to wear a sun safety swim shirt.
EARLY YEARS CURRICULUM

The Goomeri State School Early Years Curriculum Guidelines incorporate the following:

- Supporting play as a context for learning;
- Understanding each child as an individual;
- Developing supportive partnerships;
- Providing flexible learning environments; and
- Assisting children in exploring the world around them and the ways in which they learn.

The five learning areas in the curriculum are:

- Social and Personal Learning;
- Health and Physical Learning;
- Language Learning and Communication;
- Early Mathematical Understandings; and
- Active Learning Processes

In Prep we run the preschool Metalinguistic Awareness Program (PMAP). The aim of this program is to help students develop early metalinguistic skills during the Prep year. These skills such as hearing rhyming words, differentiating long words from short and segmenting words into syllables – are essential for children to master before formal reading instructions begin.

We also use Soundwaves, OLEY, Monkey Sounds (for vowels) and Brain Gym.
Children come to Prep with different experiences, interests and learning needs. Teachers plan programs that aim to promote the achievement of every student. Targeted programs and other resources are used to support and extend the students’ development.

At the beginning of the year as children settle into school life, play forms an integral part in their learning. As the year progresses there is greater emphasis on focused teaching and learning as students continue to develop and move towards Year 1. The *Australian Curriculum* will guide the content to be taught and achievement standards expected of students in Prep.

**NOTES:**

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**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN OUR PREP CLASSROOM!**
FOOD FOR HUNGRY KIDS

Please consider carefully the foods you include in your child’s lunchbox. We encourage children to make healthy choices to eat first and leave the ‘treats’ for later. Containers need to be easy to open, food should not need reheating or cutting up and spoons need to be included so that your child can independently manage their food.

Suitable Health Choices:

☑️ Bread – sandwiches, rolls, French sticks, pita or lavish bread
☑️ Crackers – rice, Ryvita, Sao, Salada
☑️ Savoury biscuits
☑️ Cheese / salad/ olives
☑️ Salami / meat
☑️ Vegetables – carrot sticks, beans, capsicum
☑️ Boiled eggs
☑️ Baked beans (in a container they can open)
☑️ Fruit – fresh, dried or canned
☑️ Natural popcorn
☑️ Yoghurt / milk
☑️ Custard (not flavoured)
☑️ Buns – plain or fruit
☑️ Leftovers
☑️ Cereal
☑️ Tuna / Salmon (in a container they can open)
☑️ Muesli bars (preferably not chocolate)
☑ Salad
☑ Water and juice

**Unsuitable food for lunches**
☒ Chips or lollies
☒ Cakes with lots of icing or cream
☒ Chocolate or chocolate flavoured or chocolate coated foods
☒ Nutella tubes or Roll-ups
☒ Soft drink
☒ Nuts (We do have students with allergies to nuts in our school community, please assist us in keeping them safe by not bringing nuts or foods containing nuts to school.)

**EATING TIMES**
The Prep Year students eat Morning Tea and Lunch with the other students in Years 1 – 6 and have a fruit snack near the classroom with their teacher at approximately 10.00am.

Morning Tea: 11.00am to 11.30am
Lunch: 1.15pm to 2.00pm

**SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS:**
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